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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(November 22 - December 21, 1983)

January 1984

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 November 1983 - 21 December 1983)

Southern Africa

OAU Committee Condemns South African Activities

(Excerpt) The Committee of the OAU on Administrative, Budget and Financial Questions, a session of which was held in Addis Ababa, introduced a resolution condemning South Africa for aggressive activities aimed against the frontline states, and expressed solidarity with the struggle of their people, especially those of Angola and Mozambique. (11 Dec 83, p. 4)

Angola

Statement of Support

(Excerpt) The people and government of Angola lend their full support for Soviet peace initiatives for which proposals have been put forth by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Andropov, said Angolan President dos Santos in Luanda. (22 Nov 83, p. 4)

Angola Rejects 'Multinational Force' Idea

(Text) The newspaper Jornal de Angola has published a commentary by the Angolan news agency ANGOP rejecting the idea of creating so-called "multinational forces" and deploying them in Angola to replace the contingent of Cuban internationalists now in the country. This idea, the commentary says, originated in imperialist circles and is yet another provocative undertaking and subversive maneuver directed against Angola. The commentary stresses that the only legitimate basis for the resolution of the Namibian problem is the relevant UN Security Council resolution, which provides for the withdrawal of the occupying South African troops from Namibia and the holding of free general elections under UN supervision. As for the presence of the Cuban internationalists in Angola, this question is exclusively within the competence of Cuba and Angola, as has been stated repeatedly. (26 Nov 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #230, 29 Nov 83, p. J1)

Declaration Released

(Excerpt) The Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party expresses great concern on the occasion of strained relations in Europe because of the escalation of nuclear weapons by the American administration, and supports the Soviet Union and other countries in the Socialist camp as well as all the progressive forces aiming for universal and full disarmament, states a declaration on the international situation put forth at the conclusion of the party's plenum in Luanda. (26 Nov 83, p. 4)

Soviet Artists Perform for Troops

(Excerpt) Performing in Angola, the Moscow Ensemble of Folklore Music under the direction of Vladimir Nazarov appeared before troops of the National Armed Forces. Concerts by Soviet musicians have taken place where operations are presently being carried out by UNITA. (27 Nov 83, p. 4)

Tribunal Blames Imperialism For Wars

(Excerpt) The international tribunal of "Children Blame Imperialism" concluded its work in Luanda. After having studied numerous condemning documents and hearing testimony of witnesses, the tribunal irrefutably argued that millions of children are perishing as the result of local and undeclared wars which are stoked by the United States and its allies. (4 Dec 83, p. 5)

MPLA Celebrated

(Excerpt) The Angolan people today recognized the historic date of their nation's history--the 27th anniversary of the creation of the MPLA, and the sixth anniversary of the organization of the avant-garde party, the MPLA-Workers' Party. The central event was a massive workers' demonstration in Luanda's May First Square. (11 Dec 83, p. 5)

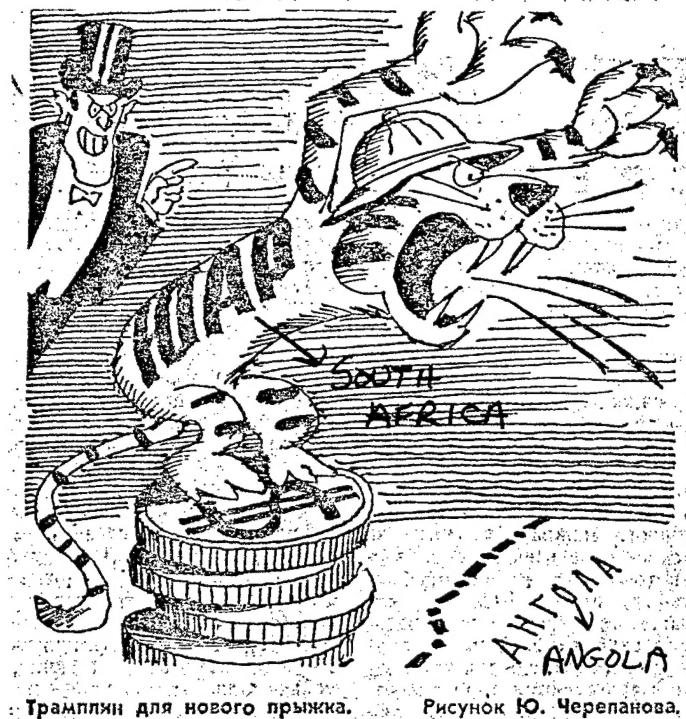
FAPLA Campaigns Fruitful

(Text) During campaigns in the period between 14 and 26 November of this year, operations conducted by units of the National Armed Liberation Forces of Angola (FAPLA) to wipe out UNITA bands put more than 160 guerrillas out of action. (16 Dec 83, p. 5)

South African Troops Attempt to Seize Mudondo

(Excerpt) According to Defense Ministry reports, the illegal occupying South African troops have undertaken an attempt to seize positions held by FAPLA in Huila Province. On 17 December Mirage bombers belonging to the South African Air Force dropped bombs in the populated region of Mudondo. Military actions are taking place in Angola 300 kilometers from the country's southern border. Heroic FAPLA troops are continuing to defend Mudondo. The escalation of South African military provocations in Angola is occurring at a moment when the UN Security Council is examining the question of South African aggression in and illegal occupation of Angola. (19 Dec 83, p. 5)

South African Aggression



(Text) Springboard for a new caper.

(28 Nov 83, p. 1)

New Attacks Launched

(Text) The racist Pretoria regime has undertaken the next aggressive action in Angola. According to reports from the Angolan Ministry of Defense, on 14 December a large motorized brigade of the South African Army traveled in four columns from the city of Chamgomba, and began an offensive on the FAPLA position in the Mulondo region of Huila Province. The goal of the new military action, according to the Defense Ministry communication, is to distract FAPLA forces and then withdraw under an attack of South African puppet-controlled UNITA forces whose guerrillas have been launching attacks on the Angolan Army. (17 Dec 83, p. 5)

Angolan Situation Brought Up in UN Security Council

(Excerpt) With US support, South Africa is increasing its aggression against Angola in an attempt to destabilize this independent African republic. The question of aggression and illegal occupation is once again an issue in the UN Security Council. (18 Dec 83, p. 7)

Conflict Continues

(Excerpt) This central African country is now going through a difficult time. The devastating, interminable civil war has literally split the country into pieces. The north is controlled by Goukouni Oueddei's GUNT, but the capital--the city of N'Djamena and the southern provinces--are under the authority of Hissein Habre. The line of confrontation is located on the 15th parallel along which are found the French interventionist forces which arrived in Chad last summer. Paris intervened militarily under pressure from Washington, sending into Chad about 3,500 soldiers with tanks and planes. As a result of continuing foreign occupation of the country, chances for peace are slim. (28 Nov 83, p. 5)

Gambling on Bayonets

(Excerpt) According to reports from Kinshasa, the N'Djamena regime's Defense Minister Rotouang Yoma has arrived in Zaire. The visit's aim is to get the Zairean leaders to expand further armed interference in Chadian affairs. The Minister's trip has been undertaken at a time when the situation in Chad has deteriorated as a result of the continuing imperialist occupation of this African country, which Washington includes in the sphere of "the West's vital interests." The antipeople policy of the present N'Djamena leaders, who are backed by the United States and its satellites, is provoking growing resistance from the population. According to reports from Chad, clashes between partisan detachments and the occupiers are taking place in the center, the south, and the southeast of the country. Lacking support within the country, Habre, ringleader of the N'Djamena regime, is gambling on the bayonets of his Western protectors. More than 3,500 French soldiers are operating in the country. At the same time, agencies report, under pressure from Washington and Paris, the size of the Zairean contingent exceeded 4,000 men at the end of November. As Chad's National Unity Transition Government (GUNT) radio announced, the N'Djamena regime intends to use the interventionists in the major offensive being prepared against the GUNT forces. (15 Dec 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #246, 21 Dec 83, pp. J1-2)

Events in Chad

(Text) Chad's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) favors settling the situation in the country by way of talks, declared Goukouni Oueddei, GUNT Chairman, who is in Cotonou on a working visit. The transitional government has currently elaborated a plan for a peaceful solution to the Chad problem which will be submitted for examination by the interested parties during a planned meeting in Addis Ababa, he said.

More than 5,000 partisans fighting to overthrow the puppet Habre regime are operating in Chad's southern and eastern regions, the magazine Afrique-Asie notes. In recent weeks they have liberated many population centers, in particular the administrative center of Dembo. The partisans control vast regions around the towns of Bobokore and Mossila. The opponents of the present N'Djamena authorities are even conducting combat operations in the capital. They are attacking barracks and blowing up fuel and ammunition dumps. (20 Dec 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #246, 21 Dec 83, p. J2)

Announcement of Future Party Congress

(Excerpt) The Third Congress of the Congolese Workers' Party will be held in July 1984. In a communique from the workers' plenum now being held in Brazzaville, it is stated that the Congress will increase the leadership role of the Party and will strengthen its ties with the people. (19 Dec 83, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Ethiopian Party Delegation Visits USSR

(Text) A delegation from the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) headed by Alemu Abeba, Central Committee member and Chief of the COPWE Central Committee Nationalities Section, was in the Soviet Union from 12 to 20 November. The delegation was received at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work and International Departments and had a talk at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. It toured the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR and Karachayevo-Cherkess Autonomous Oblast and familiarized itself with the CPSU's experience in the sphere of nationalities and state organization and the activity of party organizations to implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The Ethiopian guests noted the great significance of the experience in resolving the nationalities question in the Soviet Union for the liberated countries in Africa and assessed highly the Soviet working people's achievements in Socialist building and the peace-loving foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. (22 Nov 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #231, 30 Nov 83, p. J3)

Government Denies Sudanese Claims

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian Government categorically refuted the allegation of the Sudanese regime that there is a "concentration of Ethiopian troops" on the border between the two countries. This provoking lie, said the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs in a speech, is part of Sudan's goal to defeat the attention of the Sudanese population from serious internal political, economic, and social problems.

The Paris newspaper, Quotidien de Paris, writes that the press is clearly dramatizing the situation at this moment when the President of Sudan is in Washington asking for greater American military aid. (23 Nov 83, p. 5)

Sudan Conducting 'Anti-Ethiopian Campaign'

(Excerpt) There has recently been a sharp deterioration in the domestic political situation in Sudan and particularly the south Sudan problem, which, as is well known, has a long history. Despite the fact that the situation in south Sudan has somewhat stabilized recently, the country's central government has not been able to eradicate the ethnic, religious, and other contradictions which underline this domestic conflict. In response to the policy pursued by President Numeiri's regime, riots have again flared up there, opposition forces, including the activities of armed detachments, have become more active, and the repressive measures taken by the government have intensified the flood of Sudanese refugees

into Ethiopian territory. Instead of concentrating its efforts on the search for constructive ways of settling the situation in the south, the Khartoum regime has started groundlessly to blame Ethiopia for all its ills, alleging that this neighboring country is using refugees with the aim of undermining the existing system and setup in Sudan. The anti-Ethiopian campaign, in which the highest Sudanese officials have joined, has become extremely broad in scope. Back in September of this year in one of his speeches, Numeiri accused Ethiopia, and also Libya and the Soviet Union, of inspiring disturbances in the south, and of interfering in the country's internal affairs. This campaign, as indicated in the Ethiopian Government's recent statement, is directly aimed at shifting, by means of these insinuations, the entire blame for the deterioration of the domestic situation onto Ethiopia and diverting the Sudanese public's attention from the complex domestic political problems.

The absurdity of these allegations is self-evident. As is well known, in recent years Ethiopia itself has repeatedly demonstrated its desire to develop friendly relations with its neighbors. Sudan was no exception. Now, however, as events show, the Khartoum authorities have embarked on a course of fanning enmity and distrust toward neighboring Ethiopia. Foreign observers, and it is clearly no accident, are linking the current upsurge of the anti-Ethiopian and anti-Soviet campaign in the Sudan with the trip recently made by President Numeiri to Washington, noting his desire to secure major additional economic and military aid. And if Khartoum seriously thinks that by pursuing a provocative policy with regard to Ethiopia and other countries it can straighten out its own internal affairs, that is a profound delusion. Such a policy has no future. (29 Nov 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #231, 30 Nov 83, pp. J1-2)

Partners in Apartheid

(Text) A well-known number of American investment companies are involved in South Africa's economy, their total investments coming to about \$2.6 billion. However, according to evidence in the journal Africa Now, these data are far from complete. The journal reports that the general sum of American investments in South Africa, including banking and other investments as well as loans, comes to \$14.6 billion. According to UN data, about 400 large American companies and another 6,000 American firms conduct business with South Africa through various agencies. The United States and its NATO allies continue to support the racist system in South Africa and profit from accounts in that country. (2 Dec 83, p. 5)

Protocol Signed

(Text) A talk was held 6 December between N. S. Patolichev, Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade, and W. Chekol, Minister of External Trade of Socialist Ethiopia. On the same day a protocol on trade turnover between the Soviet Union and Socialist Ethiopia for 1984 was signed. It provides for the further expansion of mutual trade. (7 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #241, 14 Dec 83, p. J1)

Guinea

CPSU Delegation Returns Home

(Text) A CPSU delegation led by First Secretary of the Tajik Central Committee R. Nabiev arrived back in Moscow from Conakry after having attended the 12th Party Congress of the Democratic Party of Guinea. (23 Nov 83, p. 4)

Party Congress Concludes

(Excerpt) The work of the 12th Congress of the Democratic Party of Guinea (DPG) concluded in Conakry. The delegates confirmed the party's course in the progress against the capitalist path. President Sekou Toure urged the party and the population to try to adhere to this way. (23 Nov 83, p. 4)

Soviet Films Shown Frequently

(Excerpt) Soviet film weeks have already become a tradition in Guinea. So far, there have been seventeen such film weeks in Conakry during which Guinean inhabitants saw films with titles like "To Remember or to Forget," "The Sixth," "The Fall of the Condor," and "Mexico on Fire." (13 Dec 83, p. 5)

Madagascar

Talks Held

(Text) On 1 December P. N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Minister of Culture, received G. Rabeshala, Minister for Revolutionary Art and Culture of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar. F. Randriamonjy, Madagascar's ambassador to the USSR, participated in the talks, which were held in a friendly, cordial atmosphere. (2 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #236, 7 Dec 83, p. J1)

Mozambique

Delegation in USSR

(Text) A Mozambican party delegation headed by FRELIMO Central Committee member R. Lumbela was in the Soviet Union from 12 to 21 November. The FRELIMO representatives had meetings in the Agricultural and International Departments of the CPSU Central Committee and in the Central Union of the USSR. Besides Moscow, the delegation visited a region of the Ukraine where it was familiarized with efforts by the party organization to manage agriculture. The guests emphasized the significance of CPSU efforts for FRELIMO in its own efforts to organize life in the Mozambican countryside. (22 Nov 83, p. 4)

FRELIMO Regional Committees Created

(Text) Work to establish regional FRELIMO party committees has been completed in Maputo. Elections of delegates in district party conferences, which will be chosen by party committees, will take place in Maputo. (27 Nov 83, p. 5)

France Withdraws From Contact Group

(Excerpt) The French Government decided to withdraw from the contact group of five Western powers on Namibia. Since 1977 the contact group--the United States, Britain, France, Canada, and West Germany--performed a role as mediator on the Namibian problem as a result of a UN resolution. The withdrawal of France is witness to the defeat of the Western nations' efforts to solve the Namibian problem. (11 Dec 83, p. 5)

Not Going the Same Way

(ext) The French Government has announced its decision to withdraw from the so-called "contact group" on Namibia. The group was formed in 1977 by five countries--the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, and Canada--which offered to act as intermediaries at talks on a peaceful solution to the Namibia problem in accordance with UN resolutions. But it soon became clear that the Western "five," far from promoting a settlement, are doing everything possible to retard it. The United States, crowding out the other members of the contact group, started zealously defending South Africa's interests. Using the tactics of delays and procrastination, Washington dragged its feet in the attempt to exclude the United Nations from participation in the process of granting independence to Namibia and ultimately to wreck that process.

The U.S. pro-South African slant has been particularly shameless recently, now that the present administration has proclaimed an open policy of "constructive cooperation" with Pretoria. The people on the banks of the Potomac have in effect gone over to open alliance with the apartheid regime. This course has also affected the talks on Namibia. The South African racists have in effect derailed them by making the withdrawal of their own troops from the occupied country conditional on the withdrawal of the contingent of Cuban internationalists from Angola. Everyone rejected this unfounded demand, from the frontline states and SWAPO to the Nonaligned Movement and UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar. Nonetheless Pretoria was actively supported by the United States, although even the US partners in the "five" came out against the idea of "linkage," which came in for wide international condemnation. A split took place. In these conditions Paris refused entirely to participate further in the contact group. According to French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson, the group "must stop work, since it is incapable of fulfilling its functions honorably." Of course, this step on France's part is based not on a sudden insight, but on sober calculations. Paris is concerned not least for its own neocolonialist interests in African states, many of which have traditional ties with France. It does not want to jeopardize its own positions for the benefit of Washington's policy of blind fraterization with South Africa, which is causing indignation throughout independent Africa.

5 The United States would like to involve its allies in this policy. But
4 they--some timidly, others more resolutely--are trying to dissociate themselves
3 or at least "keep their distance" from the hated apartheid regime. France's
2 withdrawal from the "contact group" is evidence that US attempts to impose a
1 version of a Namibia settlement which would suit Pretoria are doomed to failure.
0 (15 Dec 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #245,
20 Dec 83, pp. J3-4)

Nigeria

Agriculture Stressed

(Excerpt) The Nigerian Government is paying much attention to agriculture. The task is to become self-sufficient in feeding the population while at the same time minimizing the need for product imports. For the needs of agriculture, the government is utilizing considerable resources. Along with the creation of large farms, the government continues to give attention to the small farmer who has, in the past few years, received a range of preferential treatments including bank credits. (28 Nov 83, p. 5)

Program to Eliminate Illiteracy

(Excerpt) One of the most pressing tasks for Nigeria remains the elimination of illiteracy. The authorities are not only building new schools to draw in qualified cadres to pedagogical work, but are also striving to take larger steps to educate the population. Decisive measures in the education field have been taken in the state of Kwara located in the center of western Nigeria. The state authorities took under their full control sections of the national schools. (18 Dec 83, p. 6)

Republic of South Africa

UN Condemns Apartheid

(Excerpt) The UN General Assembly concluded a discussion of its position on South Africa. The participants in the international forum, with an overwhelming majority, condemned the disgraceful system of apartheid in South Africa, and the aid and support which Western countries, especially the United States, offer to the Pretoria regime. (12 Dec 83, p. 5)

Sao Tome and Principe

High Evaluation

(Text) A delegation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe (MLSTP) headed by A. Graca do Espirito Santo, member of the MLSTP Central Committee Politburo and president of the National Popular Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, visited the Soviet Union from 16 to 27 November. The Sao Tome guests had talks at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department, Propaganda Department, and International Department, and were received by A. P. Shitikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union. The delegation traveled to Uzbekistan, where it familiarized itself with the work experience of the republic and Andizhan Oblast party organizations. (29 Nov 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #232, 1 Dec 83, p. J1)

CPSU Delegation's Departure

(Text) A CPSU delegation headed by A. S. Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, left Moscow 11 December for the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and

Principe at the invitation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe Central Committee. (13 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #239, 12 Dec 83, p. J2)

Sao Tome Official Receives Kapto-Led CPSU Group

(Text) Alda Graca do Espirito Santo, Chairman of the National Popular Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and member of the Politburo of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe Coordination Council, received the CPSU Delegation headed by A. S. Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, which is visiting here at the invitation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe Central Committee. In her speech, A. G. do Espirito highly assessed the strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the peoples of both countries. (17 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #248, 23 Dec 83, p. J5)

USSR Foreign Policy Praised

(Text) Manuel Pinto da Costa, chairman of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe (MLSTP) and President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, has given a high appraisal of the consistent foreign policy course of the Soviet Union. Receiving the CPSU delegation led by A. S. Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, which is here at the invitation of the MLSTP Central Committee, he expressed satisfaction at the development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and between the CPSU and the MLSTP. The CPSU delegation's visit concluded with the signing of a plan for party ties between the CPSU and the MLSTP. (20 Dec 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #248, 23 Dec 83, p. J6)

Senegal

Clash With Separatists

(Text) Nineteen people have been killed and 80 wounded as a result of a clash between separatist elements and police in the center of the southern Senegalese region of Casamance--Ziguinchor City. According to an official Senegalese Government communique broadcast on the radio, a group of armed people tried to seize the administrative buildings and police station in Ziguinchor 18 December. The attack was repulsed by the security forces, which have complete control of the situation in the city, the document notes. Arrests have been made. The separatists are demanding the separation of the Casamance region from Senegal and the proclamation of its independence. (21 Dec 83, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #250, pp. J3-4.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Group Visits USSR

(Text) A group of leading figures from Zimbabwe comprised of M. Nyamumbo, a member of the Executive Committee and secretary of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and Minister of Mines; E. Nkala, member

of the executive committee and general treasurer of the ZANU-PF and Minister of National Supply; and D. Mutasa, ZANU-PF deputy secretary and speaker of the Republic's House of Assembly, visited the Soviet Union from 16 to 28 November. The Zimbabwean guests were received by B. Yazkuliyeu, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Meetings and talks were held at the CPSU Central Committee International Department, the Donetsk Oblispolkom, and city, rayon, and primary party organizations in Donetsk Oblast. (29 Nov 83, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #232, 1 Dec 83, p. J1)